scale of Assistant Engineer, that is, Rs. 2000-3500 on a personal basis after completion of 15 years of total service as Junior Engineers on fitness basis. This decision is effective from 1.1.1991. This would give considerable relief to the Junior engineers with long years of service.

Disaster in Indravati Power Project, Orissa

@4003. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a major disaster which occurred in the tunnel of the World Bank funded multi-purpose Hydro Electric Upper Indravati Power Project under construction in Orissa since 1978;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of a commission being set up by Government of Orissa to find out the causes of the disaster by the State's Special Relief Commissioner;

(c) whether the Central Government were informed of the findings of the Commission; and

(d) if so, what action the Central Government have taken/propose to take as World Bank funding is supposedly done at the Central Government's instance?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Subsequent to the flooding of the headrace tunnel of Upper Indravati Hydro-electric Project on 28th July, 1991, the Government of Orissa set up a Committee headed by Development Commissioner, Orissa to ascertain the causes that led to the tragedy and pin point the deficiencies and failures that contributed to it and also give suggestions about preventive measures to be taken to avoid such tragedies in future.

The Committee in its Report submitted to the State Government in October, 1991 found the Project management wanting in preparation of the specifications for the Coffer Dam as well as in enforcement of the contract conditions with the Contractor with regard to safety aspects of the work. It also suggested the necessity for effective communication for avoiding such tragedies in future. Since the irrigation projects are executed by the State Governments, it is for Orissa Government to take action as deemed fit on the findings.

Water Crisis in Asia in the Next Century

@@4004. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Times of India dated the 22nd September, 1992 under the caption "Water crisis likely in Asia next century";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to overcome the difficulties mentioned therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V.C. SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Most of the issues raised in the newsitem have already been considered by the Government and are covered in the National Water Policy adopted by the National Water Resources Council in September, 1987. To maximise the availability of water, the National Water Policy has recommended that resource planning in the case of water has to be done for a hydrological unit such as a basin/sub-basin so that all the requirements of water in each sub-basin and basin can be assessed and the surplus

@Previously Unstarred Question 2360 transferred from 8th December 1992.

**Includes State Sector Projects

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2806 transferred from 10th December 1992.